Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00576 011526Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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R 011350Z APR 75 FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7100 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, MA

SUBJECT: MADAGASCAR AND REVERSE TRADE PREFERENCES

REFS: STATE 55671 AND 66492

BEGIN SUMMARY: NEW GOMR NOT YET SEIZED OF MATTER OF REVERSE PREFERENCES IN FAVOR OF EEC COUNTRIES, BUT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO ABOLISH THEM. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL MAR 28 ON MALAGASY MINISTER FINANCE MAJOR RAKOTOARIJAONA I HANDED HIM COPY OF EMBASSY NOTE TO FONOFF ABOUT US DESIGNATION OF MADAGASCAR AS ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. GENERALIZED TRADE PREFERENCES ON ASSUMPTION MADAGASCAR WILL ABOLISH REVERSE PREFERENCES IN FAVOR OF EEC COUNTRIES, AND INQUIRED ABOUT PRESENT STATUS OF MALAGASY REVERSE PREFERENCES. I POINTEDLY NOTED TO HIM AS FINANCE MINISTER THAT ELIMINATION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES SHOULD INCREASE TREASURY'S CUSTOMS RECEIPTS.

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PAGE 02 TANANA 00576 011526Z

2. MINISTER STATED MATTER OF LOME CONVENTION HAD BEEN

RAISED ON SECOND DAY OF RATSIMANDRAVA GOVERNMENT'S BRIEF EXISTENCE IN FEBRUARY WHEN FONOFF OFFICIAL TRIED PRESENT 2-FOOT DOSSIER TO CABINET. RATSIMANDRAVA SENT HIM BACK TO BOIL QUESTION DOWN TO A PRECIS.

- 3. MATTER HAS NOT YET REACHED FINANCE MINISTER AGAIN, BUT HE AGREED THAT HE AND MINISTER ECONOMY AND COMMERCE WOULD BE OFFICIALS PRIMARILY CONCERNED. HE SAID REVERSE PREFERENCE QUESTION WOULD BE APPROACHED FROM STANDPOINT MADAGASCAR'S INTEREST. I RESPONDED THAT IN THIS CASE INTERESTS OF MADAGASCAR AND U.S. APPEARED TO BE IDENTICAL. HE SMILINGLY AGREED.
- 4. COMMENT: BELIEVE PRESENT GOMR VIRTUALLY CERTAIN ELIMINATE REVERSE PREFERENCES. WE SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME CHECK TO SEE WHETHER ACTUAL PROCEDURAL STEP TAKEN TO DO SO. COPY OF NOTE I LEFT WITH FINANCE MINISTER SHOULD SERVE AS REMINDER TO GET ON WITH MATTER.

 MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

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